
From: ThaiFurn@aol.com [mailto:ThaiFurn@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2007 5:33 PM

To: MLPAComments

Subject: (no subject)

I would like to address Scientific Collecting, Abalone, and Kelp beds.. Scientific collecting has gotten way out of control... hammer and chisel? this method is used to take corals and gorgonians, all of which will not reproduce if taken all the way down to the rock... also, all commercial harvesting of corals was banned in the early eighties so why do we make exceptions for any reason, and if so, where are they reporting data and what controls.... trawl nets, intertidal harvesting, almost completely unregulated.... Abalone- Are there pinto and or flat Abalones in this zone, and why are they omitted from this data? The demise of abalone in the 1990's in S Cal is from diseased baby abalone (courtesy of the aquaculturist purchase of south african abalone) and water pollution, NOT commercial divers. (they all disappeared, tiny babies and 7 1/4" plus) Allowing open water systems for raising abalone can allow another outbreak of disease and we are required by law to err in the favor of the fishes.... Kelp forest and all the brown algae.... Not only are the large beds of *Nereocystis lutea*, but also the Kombu, Laminaria, Wakame, etc., are reduced to a pittance if the sea urchins are not kept in check... The data in all the already closed areas within this zone should be scrutinized, (ie the population densities of the urchins vs abundance of brown algae, how the urchins maul kelp as soon as it blooms, etc) and making the commercial harvest of sea urchins possibly exempt in this zone or at least some season should be considered... thank you and good luck.... Mark Nicks.... commercial fisherman.....